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RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December

1954

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URBAN DISTRICT AUTHORITY OF RUNCORN

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# ANNUAL REPORT

1954

BY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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## OFFICIALS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- (1) *Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts*
- (2) *Divisional Medical Officer of Health*  
*Divisional School Medical Officer (Runcorn Division)*

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.

### *Sanitary Inspectors :*

/- *Senior :* Mr. ALLEN DALE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I.,  
Meat and Foods.

/- *Additional :* Mr. ALBERT DUCKWORTH, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I.,  
Meat and Foods.

*Additional :* Mr. IVAN THOMPSON, M.S.I.A.  
/ (Also appointed Shops Inspector).

## MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN

---

*Chairman of the Council :*

COUNCILLOR W. S. HUXTABLE, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman of the Council :*

COUNCILLOR F. RATCLIFFE

County Alderman W. Gittins, J.P.

Councillor G. GOODIER

„ C. J. HELSBY

„ J. HENDERSON

„ S. HOLT (*Chairman of the Public Health Committee*).

„ E. G. JONES

„ T. H. LEATHER

„ D. McCULLOCH, D.C.M.

„ G. G. MORRIS

„ C. C. POSNETT

„ J. G. POTTS

„ Miss M. J. PREECE, B.A., C.C.

„ J. H. PUGH

„ T. B. SHALLCROSS

„ H. A. THOMAS

„ J. TILDSLEY, J.P.

„ J. A. WARREN

„ A. WOOD

„ G. WRIGHT, J.P.

### OFFICERS :

*Solicitor/Clerk of the Council :* Mr. T. J. LEWIS

*Engineer and Surveyor :* Mr. A. B. CUNNINGHAM, (M.I.Mun.,  
M & Cy.E.). (Retired August 1954).

*Engineer and Surveyor :* Mr. H. A. HUMPHREY (M.I.Mun.E.)  
(September 1954).

*Treasurer :* Mr. C. NORMAN GREEN.

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## INTRODUCTION

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year-ending 31st December, 1954.

*Population* : There is an increase of 420 in the Registrar General's estimate of the total population from 24,350 in 1953 to 24,770 in 1954.

*Birth Rate* : The Birth Rate per thousand of the population showed a slight decrease being 16.83 in 1954 by comparison of 17.57 in 1953.

*Death Rate* : The Death Rate for 1954 was 10.29 per thousand of the population compared with 9.07 in 1953. The total number of deaths in the Runcorn Urban District in 1954 was 255 compared with 221 in 1953.

*Infantile Mortality Rate* : The Death Rate of all Infants under one year of age per thousand live births was 37.47 as compared with 21.02 in 1953.

*Incidence of Infectious Disease* : The incidence of Infectious Disease was less than the previous year. 282 cases were notified as compared with 716 during 1953.

### "THE COMMONSENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE"

I feel that the greatest importance should be attached to the above, and herewith indicate in "APPENDIX A" for guidance, a resume of the Preventive Measures which I recommend should be taken by all concerned.

*Housing* : The number of applications for Council Houses was 694 at the end of the year under review.

The number of houses owned by the Council at end of year was 1630; total of new houses erected by the Council during the year was 281. The total number of inhabited houses as at 31st December, 1954, was 7,986.

*Unfit Houses* : My Council have forwarded to the appropriate Ministry a proposed Five and Ten year plan to deal with unfit houses. As requested by the Government 714 houses are included in these plans.

*Labour Saving Devices* : Such devices as, for example, Electrical Washing-machines, Pressure Cookers, "Suction" Cleaners, etc., have proved a boon to many hard-working Mothers, etc., in the home; these plus, for example, the use of Day Nurseries, have given many women, who sometimes work long hours seven days a week, essential rest and time off for leisure, so improving their health and outlook on life.

*Sanitary Circumstances in the Area* : The details under this Section have been compiled by Mr. Allen Dale. M.R.S.I., Senior Sanitary Inspector

## ANNUAL REPORT — DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending 31st December, 1954; (by agreement with the Cheshire County Council and my local Council) — this Report is included as an appendix "B" and attached hereto.

The co-operation and help of all concerned outside my offices, in the Public Health Department and other departments has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties—without the "TEAM SPIRIT" it would be difficult to obtain results.

Yours obediently,

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P and S., L.M., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Town Hall,  
Runcorn.



## SECTION A

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

|     |   |     |         |     |     |        |
|-----|---|-----|---------|-----|-----|--------|
| (a) | Area (in acres)                                     | ... | ...     | ... | ... | 2,904  |
| (b) | Estimated Population (Mid 1954)                     | ... | ...     | ... | ... | 24,770 |
| (c) | Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1954)               | ... | ...     | ... | ... |        |
|     | according to the Rate Books                         | ... | ...     | ... | ... | 7,986  |
| (d) | Rateable value of the District (31st December 1954) | £   | 157,615 |     |     |        |
| (e) | Sum represented by one penny rate (approx)          |     |         |     |     |        |
|     | (31st December 1954)                                | ... | ...     | ... | ... | £622   |
| (f) | Density of Population. Number of Persons per acre   |     |         |     |     |        |
|     | (estimated population June 1954)                    | ... | ...     | ... | ... | 8.5    |
| (g) | Average number of persons per inhabited house       |     |         |     |     |        |
|     | (estimated population June 1954)                    | ... | ...     | ... | ... | 3.1    |

### VITAL STATISTICS

|                        |     | Total | M   | F   |
|------------------------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate | ... | 401   | 206 | 195 |
| “ “ Illegitimate       | ... | 16    | 6   | 10  |

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 16.83

Live Births born outside Runcorn Urban District but belonging to the Runcorn Urban District (221) = 8.92 per 1,000 resident population.

|  | Total   | M | F |
|--|---------|---|---|
| STILL BIRTHS                                   | 12      | 7 | 5 |
| Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) : | = 27.97 |   |   |

|   | Total   | M   | F   |
|---|---------|-----|-----|
| DEATHS  | 255     | 150 | 105 |
| Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population : | = 10.29 |     |     |

#### *Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age*

|  |     |       |
|--|-----|-------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births (16 deaths)                        | ... | 37.47 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births (16)             | ... | 38.36 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births (nil deaths) | ... | Nil   |

#### *Infantile Mortality*

The causes of Deaths of Infants during 1954 are recorded in the following table :—

| <i>Cause of Death</i>        | Under 1 week | 1-2 weeks | 2-3 weeks | 3-4 weeks | Total under 4 weeks | 4 weeks and under 3 m'ths | 3-6 months | 6-9 months | 6-12 months | Total deaths under one y'r |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Anecephaly (Hosp.) .. ..     | 1            | -         | -         | -         | 1                   | -                         | -          | -          | -           | 1                          |
| Asphyxia .. ..               | -            | -         | -         | -         | -                   | -                         | 2          | -          | -           | 2                          |
| Broncho pneumonia (Hosp.)    | -            | -         | -         | -         | -                   | -                         | -          | 1          | -           | 1                          |
| Cardiac Failure .. ..        | -            | -         | -         | -         | -                   | 1                         | -          | -          | -           | 1                          |
| Congenital (Heart Failure)   |              |           |           |           |                     |                           |            |            |             |                            |
| (Hospital) .. ..             | -            | 1         | -         | -         | 1                   | -                         | -          | -          | -           | 1                          |
| (Home) .. ..                 | -            | -         | -         | -         | -                   | 1                         | -          | -          | -           | 1                          |
| Gastric Enteritis .. ..      | -            | -         | -         | -         | -                   | -                         | 1          | -          | -           | 1                          |
| Haemorrhage .. ..            | 1            | -         | -         | -         | 1                   | -                         | -          | -          | -           | 1                          |
| Prematurity (Hosp.) .. ..    | 4            | -         | -         | -         | 4                   | -                         | -          | -          | -           | 4                          |
| Spina Bifida (Hosp.) .. ..   | 2            | -         | -         | -         | 2                   | -                         | -          | -          | -           | 2                          |
| Velvulus of Bowel (Hosp.) .. | 1            | -         | -         | -         | 1                   | -                         | -          | -          | -           | 1                          |
| TOTALS .. ..                 | 9            | 1         | -         | -         | 10                  | 2                         | 3          | 1          | -           | 16                         |

N.B. Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births : 37.49

| There were 139 deaths of persons over 65 years of age |                  |     | M  | F  | Total |
|---|------------------|-----|----|----|-------|
| From 65—69  | number of deaths | ... | 26 | 11 | 37    |
| ,, 70—79  | —do—             | ... | 35 | 39 | 74    |
| ,, 80—89  | —do—             | ... | 9  | 15 | 24    |
| ,, 90—99  | —do—             | ... | 2  | 2  | 4     |
| ,, 100—   | —do—             | ... | —  | —  | —     |

*Table of Comparative Rates*

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Estimated Mid-year Population</i> | <i>Birth Rate</i> | <i>Death Rate</i> | <i>Infantile Mortality</i> |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1945        | 21,690                               | 19.2              | 13.42             | 66.98                      |
| 1946        | 22,940                               | 20.88             | 13.25             | 41.75                      |
| 1947        | 23,360                               | 25.5              | 12.11             | 48.5                       |
| 1948        | 23,800                               | 20.53             | 9.74              | 20.96                      |
| 1949        | 23,770                               | 17.29             | 11.23             | 51.09                      |
| 1950        | 24,000                               | 10.5              | 10.79             | 33.3                       |
| 1951        | 23,890                               | 16.07             | 13.34             | 31.25                      |
| 1952        | 23,990                               | 15.79             | 11.29             | 39.57                      |
| 1953        | 24,350                               | 17.57             | 9.07              | 21.02                      |
| 1954        | 24,770                               | 16.83             | 10.29             | 37.47                      |

Inquests were held regarding 10 deaths, 4 of which were inward transfers.

## SECTION B

### *General Provisions of Health Services in the Area*

#### 1. *Public Health Officers:*

The names, qualifications of these are given at the beginning of the Report.

##### *(a) Laboratory Facilities :*

The Biological Institute of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies, Ltd., is established in Runcorn — there query Anthrax can be examined and necessary treatment given as required prior to any Hospital treatment.

The Chester and District Hospital Management Committee have informed all General Practitioners that they would be responsible for the supply of diphtheria antitoxin (free) in emergency at the Runcorn Victoria Memorial Hospital (Matron). In addition, it can be obtained (in emergency) from any Infectious Disease Hospital, e.g., Warrington and Davenham.

Practitioners may, if they wish, obtain a small stock from a hospital in anticipation of requirements rather than wait until they need it for a particular case.

Stock held by Hospitals or Practitioners should be returned three months before expiry date for exchange to the source of supply.

*In few diseases is prompt treatment as necessary as in Diphtheria.*

N.B. Antitoxin should be given in all suspicious cases at once, *in the home or in the Hospital. Swabbing is only an aid to diagnosis.*

Swabs etc. are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, 42 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead and the Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, in addition as required, the laboratories at Chester and Warrington (free of charge).

N.B. *This applies to all examinations carried out in the interests of Public Health.* The facilities available (free of charge) might be made more use of.

Milk specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead; they may be sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

N.B. The Public Health Laboratory, Manchester and Birkenhead, also the Laboratories at the Warrington and Chester Royal Infirmaries are available to examine and report on specimen swabs, etc., in the interests of preventive medicine.



## SECTION C

### *Sanitary Circumstances*

#### 1. *Water*

(i) The water supply consists of a mixture of soft water from Lake Vyrnwy and hard Runcorn Well water.

Frequent tests are made of the water by the Council and during the year 12 tests of Vyrnwy and 12 of mixed water were made, and 77 tests of Well Water (which is under constant supervision).

The Report of the Analyst is :—“That the water generally is free from organic pollution and is suitable for drinking purposes”.

(ii) Ministry of Health Circular 42/51 requires the following information regarding water supplies in the area :—

(i) Whether the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory :—

|                 |     |     |      |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------|
| (a) In quality  | ... | ... | Yes. |
| (b) In quantity | ... | ... | Yes. |

(ii) Where there is a piped supply whether bacteriological examinations were made of (i) the raw water and (ii) where treatment is installed, of water going into supply, if so,

(a) How many ... .. Yes (i) 40; (ii) 61.

(b) The results obtained. Number of coliform organisms per 100 mls. ... .. Satisfactory

(c) The results of chemical analysis ... .. Satisfactory

(iii) Where the waters are liable to have plumbo solvent action the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and number and result of analysis :— Report of Analyst does not indicate plumbo solvent action in any of the testings made.

(iv) Action in respect of any form of contamination :— None

(v) Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains :—

|                             |     |     |     |       |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| (a) Direct to the houses    | ... | ... | ... | 7,986 |
| (b) By means of stand pipes | ... | ... | ... | Nil.  |

(i) *Drainage and Sewage* : Most of the sewers empty into one large intercepting sewer which passes under the Manchester Ship Canal at No Man's Land, and another sewer dips under the Ship Canal at the westerly boundary of the District and is discharged similarly into the Mersey estuary.

Action to improve sewage disposal is under consideration; suitable action is required as soon as possible.

(ii) *Public Cleasing* : The collection of house refuse is carried out by the Local Authority over the whole of the district and disposal is by controlled tipping in a disused quarry. The refuse is tipped in layers and covered each day with soil available on the site; a mechanical shovel is used for the purpose.

In order to prevent nuisance from insects, the refuse tip is sprayed from time to time with a reliable insecticide.

(III) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

|                                   |     |     |     |       |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Inspections made for all purposes | ... | ... | ... | 5,374 |
| Nuisances dealt with              | ... | ..  | ... | 480   |
| Notices served (informal)         | ... | ... | ... | 238   |

## SUMMARY VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

|                 |                               |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FOOD PREMISES : | Bakehouses                    | ... | ... | ... | 25  |
|                 | Cafes, Canteens, Restaurants  | ... |     |     | 22  |
|                 | Dairies and Milk Shops        | ... | ... |     | 43  |
|                 | Food Shops                    | ... | ... | ... | 223 |
|                 | Hawkers                       | ... | ... | ... | 11  |
|                 | Ice-cream premises            | ... | ... |     | 73  |
|                 | Public Market                 | ... | ... | ... | 15  |
|                 | Public Slaughterhouse         | ... | ... |     | 571 |
|                 | School Canteens               | ... | ... | ... | 33  |
| FACTORIES :     | Factories and Workplaces      | ... |     |     | 65  |
|                 | Offices                       | ... | ... | ... | 11  |
| HOUSING :       | Canal Boats                   | ... | ... | ... | 141 |
|                 | Common Lodging House          | ... | ... |     | 12  |
|                 | Complaints                    | ... | ... | ... | 335 |
|                 | House Inspections             | ... | ... |     | 633 |
|                 | Infectious Diseases Enquiries | ... |     |     | 88  |
|                 | Miscellaneous Visits          | ... | ... |     | 566 |
|                 | Nuisance Abatement            | ... | ... |     | 908 |
|                 | Owners/Agents Interviewed     | ... |     |     | 144 |
|                 | Hairdressers                  | ... | ... | ... | 32  |
| HYGIENE :       | Licensed Premises             | ... | ... | ... | 11  |
|                 | Music Hall and Theatres       | ... | ... |     | 19  |
|                 | Shops (other than food)       | ... | ... |     | 36  |



|              |                                      |     |     |       |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| SANITATION : | Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke      |     |     |       |
|              | Abatement                            | ... | ... | 46    |
|              | Disinfections                        | ... | ... | 111   |
|              | Drainage                             | ... | ... | 158   |
|              | Marine Merchants                     | ... | ... | 6     |
|              | Manure Middens                       | ... | ... | 13    |
|              | Piggeries                            | ... | ... | 15    |
|              | Public Baths                         | ... | ... | 7     |
|              | Public Conveniences                  | ... | ... | 108   |
|              | Refuse Removal and Disposal          | ... | ... | 219   |
|              | Rodent Control                       | ... | ... | 61    |
|              | Salvage Collection                   | ... | ... | 124   |
|              | School Conveniences                  | ... | ... | 31    |
|              | Tents, Vans, etc.                    | ... | ... | 30    |
|              | Wasteland                            | ... | ... | 33    |
| TESTINGS :   | Water (Domestic and Bacteriological) | ... | ... | 101   |
|              | Water Baths "chemical"               | ... | ... | 38    |
|              | Milk                                 | ... | ... | 105   |
|              | Ice-cream and lollies                | ... | ... | 120   |
|              | Soil Research                        | ... | ... | 31    |
| Total        |                                      |     |     | 5,374 |

#### (iv) *Shops*

The inspection of shops, particularly food shops was carried out during the year and 259 visits were made for the purpose. Whilst some improvement has been effected, it is still obvious that more attention could be given to the principles of hygiene.

The serving of cooked meats and confectionery by handling rather than by the employment of tongs is greatly deprecated. One is pleased to note that during the year more refrigerators have been installed for the conservation of cooked meats, and this provision does fulfil a long felt need.

Generally speaking shop premises were kept in good condition, and the provisions of the Shops Acts satisfactorily observed.

Although a few notices for certain defects became necessary they were readily complied with.

#### (v) *Smoke Abatement*

Efforts to reduce the amount of industrial smoke, and the more efficient use of fuel have continued during the year. Observations

of factory chimneys were made and advice given where excessive emissions were observed. In two instances, as a result of these visits, alteration has been made to the plant and an improvement observed. Most causes of excessive black smoke were found to be due to inefficient hand-firing of boilers.

The Local Authority has given close attention to the question of Air Pollution and has applied to the Ministry for approval of a Bye-law limiting the period during which black smoke may not be emitted from industrial plants for more than two minutes in each half-hour, and it is anticipated that this measure may be in operation during 1955.

The Council has approved the setting up of three Air Pollution Stations for recording solid matter and sulphur by means of deposit gauges and lead peroxide gauges.

#### (vi) *Swimming Baths*

The Urban District Council maintains a Swimming Bath which is supplied with water partly from a spring and partly from the Town's mains which is passed through a filtration plant charged with chlorine. It is tested for its purity and chlorine content at least twice a month during the season, and its physical characteristics are satisfactory. Daily checks are made for chlorine content by the Bath's Superintendent.

Thirty samples of Bath's water were tested, and the Analyst reported on the fluctuations of the composition of the water at various times, e.g., when the load was heavier and the temperature consequently higher. Attention was immediately given to any adverse report and the process of chlorination adjusted as required. Certain standard improvements are required when money, labour and materials are available.

#### (vii) *Eradication of Bed Bugs/Vermin*

The following particulars are given of action taken for the eradication of bed bugs :—

|     |                           | <i>Infested and Disinfested</i> |                     |              |
|-----|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
|     |                           | <i>Bed Bugs</i>                 | <i>Cock-roaches</i> | <i>Ants</i>  |
|     |                           |                                 |                     | <i>Total</i> |
| (i) | (a) No. of Council Houses | 4                               | 1                   | —            |
|     | (b) No. of other Houses   | 17                              | 8                   | 2            |
|     |                           |                                 |                     | 27           |

#### (4) *Schools*

Periodic inspections are made of the sanitary accommodation at schools and for this purpose 31 visits were made during 1954. Whilst certain improvements have been made, others are necessary and are receiving consideration by School Management Committees.

The serving of school meals necessitates the provision of Canteen accommodation; the latter have been kept under observation on hygienic grounds and at the request of the County Director of Education, smoke fumigation has been carried out at each school on three occasions, and for this purpose 33 visits were made.

#### (5) *Rodent Control*

During the year the administration of the "Preventive of Damage by Pests Act, 1949" has led to many visits and treatments of dwellings and business premises being carried out.

Treatment of infestation at private dwellings is carried out free of charge, but a charge is made for rodent control work in connection with trade premises and land.

During the year 1954 inspections were made at 317 premises; disinfestations were dealt with at 231 premises; 1,207 visits in all were made; 711 rats and 1,014 mice were accounted for.

The disinfestations dealt with consisted of :—  
Business Premises 107 : Private Dwellings 85 : Council Premises 9.

Sewer treatment was carried out in the months of June and December with satisfactory results.

# FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

## 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors :

| <i>Premises</i><br>(1)  | <i>M/c line No.</i><br>(2) | <i>Number on Register</i><br>(3) | <i>Number of</i>          |                               |                                    | <i>M/c line No.</i><br>(7) |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|   |                            |                                  | <i>Inspections</i><br>(4) | <i>Written Notices</i><br>(5) | <i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i><br>(6) |                            |
| 1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities                           | 1                          | 27                               | 20                        | 3                             | —                                  | 1                          |
| 2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .                    | 2                          | 79                               | 45                        | 3                             | —                                  | 2                          |
| 3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .. .. . | 3                          | —                                | —                         | —                             | —                                  | 3                          |
| TOTAL .. .. .   |                            | 106                              | 65                        | 6                             | —                                  |                            |



·—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

| Particulars<br><br>(1)   | M/c<br>line<br>No.<br>(2) | Number of cases in which defects were found |                 |                             |                             | Number<br>of cases<br>in which<br>prosecutions<br>were<br>instituted<br>(7) | M/c<br>line<br>No.<br>(8) |
|--|---------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
|  |                           | Found<br>(3)                                | Remedied<br>(4) | Referred                    |                             |   |                           |
|  |                           |   |                 | To H.M.<br>Inspector<br>(5) | By H.M.<br>Inspector<br>(6) |   |                           |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..   | 4                         | 2   | 2               | —                           | 1                           | —   | 4                         |
| Overcrowding (S.2) ..  | 5                         | —   | —               | —                           | —                           | —   | 5                         |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3)   | 6                         | —   | —               | —                           | —                           | —   | 6                         |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..  | 7                         | —   | —               | —                           | —                           | —   | 7                         |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)   | 8                         | —   | —               | —                           | —                           | —   | 8                         |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):<br>(a) insufficient .. ..                                   | 9                         | —   | —               | —                           | —                           | —   | 9                         |
| (b) unsuitable or defective ..   | 10                        | 6   | 6               | —                           | 4                           | —   | 10                        |
| (c) not separate for sexes ..  | 11                        | —   | —               | —                           | —                           | —   | 11                        |
| Other offences against the Act<br>(not including offences relating<br>to Out-work) .. .. | 12                        | —   | —               | —                           | —                           | —   | 12                        |
| TOTAL .. ..  |                           | 8   | 8               | —                           | 5                           | —   |                           |

Number on Outworkers' Lists : 7.



## SECTION D

### HOUSING

|  |       |     |     |     |       |
|--|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Number of inhabited houses in Urban District, 31st<br>December, 1954 | ...   | ... | ... | ... | 7,986 |
| Density of houses (number of houses per acre)                        | ...   | ... | ... | ... | 2.75  |
| Number of houses (new) erected during 1954 :                         |       |     |     |     |       |
| By Local Authority   | ...   | ... | ... | ... | 281   |
| By other bodies or persons   | ...   | ... | ... | ... | 9     |
| Number of houses owned by Local Authority—                           |       |     |     |     |       |
| permanent :  | 1538) |     |     |     |       |
| prefab.     :  | 80)   |     |     |     |       |
| General Fund :   | 12)   |     |     |     | 1.630 |

#### 1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during 1954 :—*

|   |     |     |     |     |       |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected<br>for housing defects (under Public Health or/-<br>Housing Acts)                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 639   |
| (b) Number of inspections made for all purposes   |     |     |     |     | 1,089 |
| 2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under<br>sub-head (1) above) which were inspected<br>and recorded under the Housing Acts                   | ... |     |     |     | 6     |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...   |     |     |     |     | 18    |
| 3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state<br>so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit<br>for human habitation                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6     |
| 4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those<br>referred under the previous sub-head) found not<br>to be in all respects fit for human habitation | ... |     |     |     | 228   |

#### II. *Remedy of defects during the year without the service of formal notices*

|   |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered<br>fit in consequence of informal action by the Local<br>Authority or their officers | ... | ... | ... | 108 |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|

#### III. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

|  |     |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the<br>Housing Act, 1936                    | ... | ... | ... | ... |     |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which<br>Notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—   |     |
| (a) By owners   | nil |
| By Local Authority in default of owners   | nil |
| (B) <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts :</i>   |     |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied  | 16  |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—   |     |
| (a) By the owners   | 105 |
| (b) By Local Authorities in default of owners   | 49  |
| (C) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—   |     |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made   | 5   |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders  | nil |
| (3) Number of undertakings not to relet given by owners   | nil |
| (D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—  |     |
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made  | nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit | nil |

#### 4. *Housing Act, 1936 — Part IV — Overcrowding*

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year           | 3   |
|     | (2) Number of families dwelling therein                      | 5   |
|     | (3) Number of persons dwelling therein                       | 23  |
| (b) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | nil |
| (c) | (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | nil |
|     | (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases                | nil |

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... nil

### *Annual Report of the Canal Boat Inspector*

The number of Canal Boats inspected during the year 1954 was 141; of that number 8 were found to contravene the Public Health Act 1936 and the Canal Boat Regulations of 1878 amended in 1925.

In the schedule below the 16 contraventions found are indicated :—

|   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| No Certificate of Registration on board ...           | ... | 4  |
| Defective bulkheads between engine room and cabin ... | ... | 3  |
| Leaking cabin tops ...                                | ... | 3  |
| Accumulation of bilge ...                             | ... | 3  |
| Defective water vessel ...                            | ... | 1  |
| Verminous conditions ...                              | ... | 2  |
| Total ...   |     | 16 |

A Notice was sent to the owners or occupiers of the Canal Boats concerned and the contraventions were either abated or are receiving attention.

There were found living-in on the Canal Boats :—  
Men 115 : Women 89 : Children 95.

The age group of the children is indicated below :—

| Age — Babies. | 1 | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Total |
|---------------|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|-------|
| Number — 6    | 6 | 16 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 11 | 6  | 95    |

The incidence of infectious disease is low, only one case of Measles on board a Canal Boat having been reported during the year.

The number of Canal Boats still retained on the Register at the close of 1954 was 335 : there were no new Registrations and no cancellations during the year.

### CANAL BOAT REGULATIONS

The emergence of new Canal Boat Regulations, anticipated and urgently needed, has not yet materialised. Although representations have been made calling attention to the antiquated and unhygienic conditions under which occupants of Canal Boats exist;

also that the Urban District Councils' Association and the Sanitary Inspectors Association have each submitted memoranda on the need or otherwise for new Regulations, their drafting is still delayed; it is however urged that revised Regulations designed to meet the need for better constructed Canal Boats, and the promotion of a healthier environment, should be expedited.

Yours obediently,

A. DALE  
Canal Boat Inspector.

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### (a) (i) *Milk Supply*

There are six dairy farms in the area of the Urban District, all of which are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and 51 distributors of milk on the register of the Local Authority.

One dairy in the area is licensed for the Pasteurisation of milk in the High Temperature Short Time System.

#### (ii) *Milk Testing*

During the year under review 105 samples of milk were submitted for analytical report to the Public Health Laboratory at Birkenhead.

Forty-four samples of milk delivered to the Schools in the area were tested and were reported upon as satisfactory.

Of the remaining 61 testings 2 failed the Methylene Blue; suitable action was taken in these cases and subsequent samples were satisfactory.



The table below indicated the Reports of the Analyst of testings made during the year 1954 :—

| Type                            | No. of Sample | Methylene Blue Test (Keeping Quality) |      | Phosphatase Test (Heat Treatment) |      | Tubercle Bacilli |         | Turbidity Satisfactory |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|------|------------------|---------|------------------------|
|                                 |               | Pass                                  | Fail | Pass                              | Fail | Absent           | Present |                        |
| Tuberculin Tested ... ..        | 4             | 3                                     | 1    | —                                 | —    | 4                | —       | —                      |
| Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) | 20            | 19                                    | 1    | 20                                | —    | —                | —       | —                      |
| Pasteurised ... ..              | 64            | 64                                    | —    | 64                                | —    | —                | —       | —                      |
| Sterilised ... ..               | 12            | 12                                    | —    | 12                                | —    | —                | —       | 12                     |
| Non-designated ... ..           | 5             | 5                                     | —    | —                                 | —    | 2                | —       | —                      |
| TOTAL ... ..                    | 105           | 103                                   | 2    | 96                                | —    | 6                | —       | 12                     |

(b) *Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.*  
*Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.*

The number of licenses granted under the above Regulations was 78 viz :—

|                          |                              |    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----|
| Tuberculin Tested ... .. | Retailers Licence ... ..     | 13 |
|                          | Supplementary Licence ... .. | 3  |
| Pasteurised Milk ... ..  | Retailers Licence ... ..     | 14 |
|                          | Supplementary Licence ... .. | 2  |
| Sterilised Milk ... ..   | Retailers Licence ... ..     | 46 |

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

(1) (a) *Inspection of Premises where food is prepared :*

Special attention was given during the year to the inspection of premises where food is prepared. The adoption by the Council of Bye-laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 again had the effect of creating greater diligence in the observance of hygiene in the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and its sale in the open air, also in the preparation of food.



Two hundred and twenty-three visits were made to food shops; advice was offered to proprietors of businesses whereby improvement could be affected by the application of the provisions of the food Bye-laws; and 56 visits were made to Restaurants, Cafes and Canteens.

In all such premises the importance of personal hygiene has been stressed, and the display of suitable slogans in toilets reference the washing of hands has been insisted upon.

(b) *Ice-cream :*

Inspections were regularly made of premises where ice-cream is manufactured, also from which it is retailed. There are 96 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream and two for the manufacture of it. No serious contraventions were found therein.

(c) *Ice-cream Testings :*

Fifty-six samples of Ice-cream and sixty-four samples of Ice-lollies were submitted to the Analyst for report, and the table herewith given indicates the substance of the same :—

|                         |     |     |                  |     |     |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|------------------|-----|-----|
| Testings of Ice-cream   | ... | ... | Satisfactory     | ... | 56  |
|                         |     |     | Not Satisfactory | ... | nil |
| Testings of Ice-lollies | ... | ... | Satisfactory     | ... | 64  |
|                         |     |     | Not Satisfactory | ... | nil |

(d) *Unsound Food :*

Under the “Unsound Food Provisions”, the undermentioned articles of food were found to be unfit for consumption on shop premises, and were condemned :—

|                      |          |                 |         |
|----------------------|----------|-----------------|---------|
| Eggs (duck) .....    | 26 doz.  | Preserves ..... | 5 lbs.  |
| Fish (canned) .....  | 6 lbs.   | Oats .....      | 13 lbs. |
| Fruit (canned) ..... | 826 lbs. | Sausages .....  | 23 lbs. |
| Meat (canned) .....  | 322 lbs. | Vegetables      |         |
| Milk (tinned) .....  | 90 tins. | (canned) .....  | 57 lbs. |

(2) (a) *Slaughterhouse :*

The Council's slaughterhouse controlled by the Ministry of Food until the 30th June, 1954, was taken over by the Local Butchers on 1st July, thus the distribution of Meat was continued, and has worked fairly smoothly. Furthermore the continuation of slaughter is confined to one central place; there is no private slaughterhouse in the District of the Council.

Although in the early stages of the change-over, until the end of the year, meat inspectors were required to work many hours outside their normal day, it was eventually arranged that the essential inspections should be carried through within the recognised period of each day.

An addition has been made to the slaughterhouse by the construction of a wing for the hanging of carcasses after removal from the slaughterhouse booth.

This is a very fine addition and has added greatly to the hygienic storage of beef carcasses; also gives better facilities for inspection and the viewing of the meat when being sold.

(b) *Slaughtering of Animals Act :*

The provisions of the above Act are stringently enforced and all persons engaged in the slaughter of animals are licensed for that purpose. During the year 13 applications for the renewal of licenses were approved and 2 new applications were granted.

(c) *Meat Regulations :*

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are observed satisfactorily; no legal proceedings on account of contravention have been necessary.

The transport of meat is carried out in a number of instances by individual butchers themselves, or otherwise is effected by means of other suitable transport.

In this direction the provisions of the Act are satisfactorily maintained.

(3). *Meat Inspection :*

The inspection of all animals killed is carried out by fully qualified inspectors.

Daily visits are made to the Public Slaughterhouse and no meat or edible offal is allowed to pass out until the decision of the inspector has been given.

571 visits were made for the purpose of meat inspection during the year 1954, and 19,857 animals were dealt with during the year.

(a) TABLE OF ANIMALS KILLED AND INSPECTED.

| <i>Type</i>     | <i>Number</i> | <i>Under<br/>Tuberculosis<br/>Order, 1938</i> | <i>Emergency<br/>Slaughter</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|-----------------|---------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Bulls ... ..    | 20            | Nil   | 4                              | 24           |
| Bullocks ... .. | 482           | Nil   | 1                              | 483          |
| Cows ... ..     | 1,669         | Nil   | 64                             | 1,733        |
| Heifers ... ..  | 953           | Nil   | 15                             | 968          |
| Calves ... ..   | 576           | Nil   | 18                             | 594          |
| Sheep and Lambs | 11,681        | Nil   | 21                             | 11,702       |
| Pigs ... ..     | 3,953         | Nil   | 400                            | 4,353        |
| TOTAL ... ..    | 19,334        | Nil   | 523                            | 19,857       |

(b) MEAT AND EDIBLE OFFALS CONDEMNED.

The amount of meat and edible offals condemned was :—

|                    |           |           |         |         |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|
| For tuberculosis : | 17 tons : | 19 cwts : | 2 qrs : | 24 lbs. |
| For other causes : | 9 tons :  | 15 cwts : | 3 qrs : | 12 lbs. |
| Total ... ..       | 27 tons : | 15 cwts : | 1 qr :  | 26 lbs. |

*Carcases Inspected and Condemned*

|  | <i>Cattle<br/>excluding<br/>Cows</i> | <i>Cows</i> | <i>Calves</i> | <i>Sheep<br/>and<br/>Lambs</i> | <i>Pigs</i> |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Number killed ...  | 1,475                                | 1,733       | 594           | 11,702                         | 4,353       |
| Number inspected ...   | 1,475                                | 1,733       | 594           | 11,702                         | 4,353       |
| All Diseases except...<br>Tuberculosis:<br>Whole carcasses<br>condemned ... ..             | Nil                                  | 4           | 8             | 5                              | 7           |
| Carcases of which<br>some part or organ<br>was condemned ...                               | 362                                  | 591         | 6             | 424                            | 136         |
| Percentage of the No.<br>inspected affected<br>with disease other<br>than Tuberculosis ... | 24.5 %                               | 37.1 %      | 2.3 %         | 3.6 %                          | 3.2 %       |
| Tuberculosis only:<br>Whole carcasses<br>condemned ... ..                                  | 7                                    | 16          | Nil           | Nil                            | 6           |
| Carcases of which some<br>part or organ was<br>condemned ... ..                            | 143                                  | 604         | Nil           | Nil                            | 128         |
| Percentage of the No.<br>inspected affected<br>with Tuberculosis ...                       | 10.1 %                               | 35.71 %     | Nil           | Nil                            | 3.07 %      |

A. DALE, Senior Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector.

ADULTERATION, etc.  
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Cheshire County Council for the following report of the work carried out by his department in the Runcorn Urban District under the Foods and Drugs Act during the year 1954 :—



Samples obtained during the year ended 31st December, 1954 :—

| Name of sample                            | No. obtained | No. Adulterated |
|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Boracic Acid Powder B.P. ... ..           | 1            | 1               |
| Brawn ... ..                              | 1            |                 |
| Butter ... ..                             | 1            |                 |
| Cascara Sagrada 2 gr. (Tabs. dry Extract) | 1            |                 |
| Cheese ... ..                             | 1            |                 |
| Coffee and Chicory Essence ... ..         | 1            |                 |
| Corned Beef ... ..                        | 1            |                 |
| Cooked Meat ... ..                        | 1            |                 |
| Cream-Tinned ... ..                       | 1            |                 |
| Custard Powder ... ..                     | 1            |                 |
| Dessert Powder ... ..                     | 1            |                 |
| Dripping ... ..                           | 1            |                 |
| Jelly-Table Rasp. ... ..                  | 1            |                 |
| Jelly-Table. Lime. ... ..                 | 1            |                 |
| Luncheon Meat-tinned ... ..               | 1            |                 |
| Margarine ... ..                          | 1            |                 |
| Meat Paste ... ..                         | 3            |                 |
| Milk of Magnesia Tablets ... ..           | 1            |                 |
| Milk-condensed M/c skimmed Sweetened      | 2            |                 |
| Milk ... ..                               | 42           | 1               |
| Pepper-White ... ..                       | 2            |                 |
| Pilchards in Tomato ... ..                | 1            |                 |
| Polony-Pork ... ..                        | 1            |                 |
| Quinine Sulph. Tablets. gr. 5. ... ..     | 1            |                 |
| Rum ... ..                                | 1            |                 |
| Sweets ... ..                             | 2            |                 |
| Vinegar-Malt ... ..                       | 1            |                 |
| Whiskey ... ..                            | 2            |                 |
|   | 75           | 2               |

*Particulars of Samples not up to Standard.*

| No. | Sample.                  | Result of Analysis.   | Remarks.                 |
|-----|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1.  | Boracic Acid Powder B.P. | Containing less boracic acid than the minimum specified by the B.P. | Manufacturers cautioned. |
| 2.  | Milk                     | 5.0 per cent. deficient in fat.                                     | No action                |



## SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

The prevailing varieties of notifiable disease during the year were mainly confined to measles. When further research reveals more about the virus causing, e.g. measles, a sound curative serum could be made when this disease should be controlled and eventually wiped out.

Whooping Cough vaccine can now be given to infants at an early age, the results so far have been very good; this can be obtained free of charge by the Parents or Guardians from their own Doctor in the Surgery, which I very strongly recommend.

Further research is required into the "carrier" state of many diseases with a view to providing a cure for these (including animals), but preventive inoculation against typhoid fever and other diseases will be necessary for many years, where these diseases are likely to occur, or are prevalent; in addition, proper hygiene and sanitation are an essential.

### *Diphtheria Immunisation :*

The free scheme is still available so that parents and guardians can have their children properly immunised against the deadly disease diphtheria.

All children, one to fifteen years of age, *preferably* during the first year should be properly immunised against Diphtheria by two injections; in addition, a "booster" dose (one) is required in five years' time. This can be obtained *free of cost* through the Parents' or Guardians' own Doctor in the Surgery; also at Welfare Centres and Day Nurseries. Special clinics are organised at Schools as required. Application should be made at the Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, Schools, the Health Department (Divisional) or the patients own Doctor.

Propaganda on the above has been continuously carried out aided by the Press and the Central Council for Health Education, but still some children are found on admission to hospital to have not been immunised, and some have suffered from very serious complications as a result. *Parents or Guardians should face up to their responsibilities and have their children properly immunised at once.*

"PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE".

### *Prevention of Disease from Abroad.*

The Government, under the appropriate Acts, have a system of medical examination, etc., for those persons arriving in this country from abroad who have been in areas where serious infectious

diseases has occurred. All contacts are medically examined, given written and verbal instructions what to do if they feel ill, and the local Medical Officer of Health is notified of their arrival, and he arranges for the necessary supervision.

#### *Vaccination against Smallpox.*

It is strongly recommended that all infants and others should be properly vaccinated; this can be carried out free of charge through the patient's own Doctor.

#### *Ophthalmia Neonatorum.*

Cases of this disease are notified to the County and local Divisional Medical Officer of Health.

#### *Cancer.*

Under Section 76 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Section 1, 2 and 6 and sub-sections(2) and (3) of Section 8 of the Cancer Act, 1939, were repealed and the responsibility for the provision of an adequate Cancer Service was placed on the Minister and Regional Hospital Boards by Part II of the National Health Service Act of 1946.

Facilities for cancer diagnosis and treatment are available in all major general hospitals in the area and the radio-therapeutic work of the region is centred at the Liverpool Radium Institute. Follow-up clinics are undertaken at the Chester Royal Infirmary.

The area of the Runcorn Rural District Council and the Runcorn Urban District Council are within the area of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING 1954

| Notifiable Diseases                      | Age Period—Years |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |             | Total Cases | Total Deaths | Cases moved to Hospital | Deaths in Hospital |
|--|------------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
|  | 0—               | 1— | 3— | 5—  | 10— | 15— | 25— | 45— | 65 and over |             |              |                         |                    |
| Scarlet Fever ..                         | —                | 4  | 6  | 16  | 1   | —   | —   | —   | —           | 27          | —            | 12                      | —                  |
| Whooping Cough ..                        | —                | 2  | 3  | 1   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | 6           | —            | —                       | —                  |
| Acute Poliomyelitis:                     |                  |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |             |             |              |                         |                    |
| (a) Paralytic ..                         | —                | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —           | —            | —                       | —                  |
| (b) Non-Paralytic ..                     | —                | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —           | —            | —                       | —                  |
| Measles ..                               | 6                | 63 | 73 | 100 | 3   | —   | —   | —   | —           | 245         | —            | —                       | —                  |
| Diphtheria ..                            | —                | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —           | —            | —                       | —                  |
| Acute Pneumonia (Lobar or Influenzal) .. | —                | —  | —  | —   | —   | 1   | 1   | —   | 2           | 4           | 9            | —                       | —                  |
| Dysentery ..                             | —                | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —           | —            | —                       | —                  |
| Smallpox ..                              | —                | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —           | —            | —                       | —                  |
| Acute Encephalitis:                      |                  |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |             |             |              |                         |                    |
| (a) Infective ..                         | —                | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —           | —            | —                       | —                  |
| (b) Post-Infective ..                    | —                | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —           | —            | —                       | —                  |



ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) Continued

| Notifiable Diseases      | Age Period—Years |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |             | Total Cases | Total Deaths | Cases moved to Hospital | Deaths in Hospital |
|--------------------------|------------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
|                          | 0—               | 1— | 3— | 5—  | 10— | 15— | 25— | 45— | 65 and over | Age unknown |              |                         |                    |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever | —                | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —           | —            | —                       | —                  |
| Paratyphoid Fevers ..    | —                | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —           | —            | —                       | —                  |
| Erysipelas ..            | —                | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —           | —            | —                       | —                  |
| Meningococcal Infection  | —                | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —           | —            | —                       | —                  |
| Food Poisoning ..        | —                | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —           | —            | —                       | —                  |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ..     | —                | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —           | —            | —                       | —                  |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum    | —                | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —           | —            | —                       | —                  |
| TOTALS                   | 6                | 69 | 82 | 117 | 4   | 1   | 1   | —   | 2           | —           | 282          | 9                       | 12                 |
|                          |                  |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |             |             |              |                         | —                  |



# RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT

## TOTAL DEATHS — 1952

| Causes of Death :             |  |     |     |     | Males. | Females. |
|-------------------------------|--|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|
| 1.                            | Tuberculosis, respiratory                | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        |
| 2.                            | Tuberculosis, other                      | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        |
| 3.                            | Syphilitic disease                       | ... | ... | ... | 2      | —        |
| 4.                            | Diphtheria                               | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        |
| 5.                            | Whooping Cough                           | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        |
| 6.                            | Meningococcal infections                 | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        |
| 7.                            | Acute Poliomyelitis                      | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        |
| 8.                            | Measles                                  | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 1        |
| 9.                            | Other infective and parasitic diseases   | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        |
| 10.                           | Malignant neoplasm, stomach              | ... | ... | ... | 5      | 2        |
| 11.                           | Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus       | ... | ... | ... | 12     | —        |
| 12.                           | Malignant neoplasm, breast               | ... | ... | ... | —      | 4        |
| 13.                           | Malignant neoplasm, uterus               | ... | ... | ... | —      | 1        |
| 14.                           | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms  | ... | ... | ... | 7      | 10       |
| 15.                           | Leukaemia, aleukaemia                    | ... | ... | ... | —      | 1        |
| 16.                           | Diabetes                                 | ... | ... | ... | —      | 2        |
| 17.                           | Vascular lesions of nervous system       | ... | ... | ... | 13     | 20       |
| 18.                           | Coronary disease, angina                 | ... | ... | ... | 28     | 9        |
| 19.                           | Hypertension with heart disease          | ... | ... | ... | 7      | 3        |
| 20.                           | Other heart disease                      | ... | ... | ... | 18     | 20       |
| 21.                           | Other circulatory disease                | ... | ... | ... | 6      | 8        |
| 22.                           | Influenza                                | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        |
| 23.                           | Pneumonia                                | ... | ... | ... | 6      | 3        |
| 24.                           | Bronchitis                               | ... | ... | ... | 18     | 1        |
| 25.                           | Other diseases of the respiratory system | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 1        |
| 26.                           | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum            | ... | ... | ... | 1      | —        |
| 27.                           | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea       | ... | ... | ... | —      | 1        |
| 28.                           | Nephritis and nephrosis                  | ... | ... | ... | 2      | —        |
| 29.                           | Hyperplasia of prostate                  | ... | ... | ... | 1      | —        |
| 30.                           | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion          | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        |
| 31.                           | Congenital malformations                 | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 3        |
| 31.                           | Other defined and ill-defined diseases   | ... | ... | ... | 13     | 11       |
| 33.                           | Motor vehicle accidents                  | ... | ... | ... | 1      | —        |
| 34.                           | All other accidents                      | ... | ... | ... | 3      | —        |
| 35.                           | Suicide                                  | ... | ... | ... | 2      | —        |
| 36.                           | Homicide and operations of war           | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        |
| (Registrar-General's figures) |  |     |     |     | ...    | ...      |
| Total                         |  |     |     |     | 150    | 105      |

|                                       |                |                  |     |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----|
| Deaths of Infants<br>under 1 year.    | ( Total        | 8                | 8   |
|                                       | ( Legitimate   | 8                | 8   |
|                                       | ( Illegitimate | —                | —   |
| LIVE BIRTHS :                         | ( Total        | 212              | 205 |
|                                       | ( Legitimate   | 206              | 195 |
|                                       | ( Illegitimate | 6                | 10  |
| STILLBIRTHS                           | ( Total        | 7                | 5   |
|                                       | ( Legitimate   | 7                | 4   |
|                                       | ( Illegitimate | —                | 1   |
| Population (mid June 1954)            |                | Estimated 24,770 |     |
| Comparability Factors : Births 0.98 : |                | Deaths 1.17.     |     |

Classified Table of Cancer Deaths

| Site                 | Age  |    |       |    |       |    |             |    | Total |
|----------------------|------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------------|----|-------|
|                      | 0-30 |    | 31-50 |    | 51-70 |    | 70 and over |    |       |
|                      | M.   | F. | M.    | F. | M.    | F. | M.          | F. |       |
| Breast .. ..         | -    | -  | -     | 1  | -     | 3  | -           | -  | 4     |
| Bronchus .. ..       | -    | -  | -     | -  | 10    | -  | -           | -  | 10    |
| Carcinomatosis .. .. | -    | -  | -     | -  | -     | -  | 1           | -  | 1     |
| Cervix .. ..         | -    | -  | 1     | -  | -     | 1  | -           | -  | 2     |
| Colon .. ..          | -    | -  | -     | -  | -     | -  | 2           | -  | 2     |
| Face .. ..           | -    | -  | -     | -  | -     | -  | -           | 1  | 1     |
| Lung .. ..           | -    | -  | -     | -  | 2     | -  | -           | -  | 2     |
| Ovaries .. ..        | -    | -  | -     | -  | -     | 1  | -           | -  | 1     |
| Pancrea .. ..        | -    | -  | -     | -  | 1     | -  | 1           | -  | 2     |
| Pharynx .. ..        | -    | -  | -     | -  | -     | 1  | -           | -  | 1     |
| Rectum .. ..         | -    | -  | -     | -  | 1     | -  | -           | 1  | 2     |
| Sarcoma .. ..        | -    | 1  | -     | -  | -     | -  | -           | 1  | 2     |
| Stomach .. ..        | -    | -  | 2     | -  | 3     | 2  | -           | -  | 7     |
| Tongue .. ..         | -    | -  | -     | -  | -     | 2  | -           | -  | 2     |
| Uterus .. ..         | -    | -  | -     | 1  | -     | -  | -           | -  | 1     |
| Vagina .. ..         | -    | -  | -     | -  | -     | -  | -           | 1  | 1     |
| MALE DEATHS .. ..    | -    | -  | 3     | -  | 17    | -  | 4           | -  | Total |
| FEMALE DEATHS .. ..  | -    | 1  | -     | 2  | -     | 10 | -           | 4  | 41    |

BIRTH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND CASE RATES  
for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1954

Runcorn Urban District and England and Wales  
(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

|   | <i>Runcorn Urban<br/>District</i>  | <i>England and<br/>Wales</i> |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
|   | <i>Rates per 1,000 Population</i>  |                              |
| <b>BIRTHS :</b>   |                                    |                              |
| Live Births (427) .. .. .                                     | 16.83                              | 15.2                         |
| Still Births (12) .. .. .                                     | 27.97                              | 23.4                         |
| <b>DEATHS :</b>   |                                    |                              |
| All causes (255) .. .. .                                      | 10.29                              | 11.3                         |
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid .. .. .                               | 0.00                               | 0.00                         |
| Whooping Cough .. .. .  | 0.00                               | 0.03                         |
| Diphtheria .. .. .  | 0.00                               | 0.00                         |
| Influenza .. .. .   | 0.00                               | 0.04                         |
| Smallpox .. .. .  | 0.00                               | 0.00                         |
| Acute Poliomyelitis<br>(including poliocencephalitis)         | 0.00                               | 0.03                         |
| Pneumonia (3) .. .. .   | 0.36                               | 0.48                         |
| <b>NOTIFICATIONS (corrected) :</b>                            |                                    |                              |
| Typhoid Fever .. .. .   | 0.00                               | 0.00                         |
| Paratyphoid Fever .. .. .                                     | 0.00                               | 0.02                         |
| Meningococcal Infection .. .. .                               | 0.00                               | 0.07                         |
| Scarlet Fever (27) .. .. .                                    | 1.09                               | 0.97                         |
| Whooping Cough (6) .. .. .                                    | 0.24                               | 2.38                         |
| Diphtheria .. .. .  | 0.00                               | 0.02                         |
| Erysipelas .. .. .  | 0.00                               | 0.12                         |
| Smallpox .. .. .  | 0.00                               | 0.00                         |
| Measles (245) .. .. .   | 9.89                               | 3.31                         |
| Pneumonia (4) .. .. .   | 0.16                               | 0.73                         |
| Acute Poliomyelitis (including<br>poliocencephalitis) .. .. . |                                    |                              |
| Paralytic .. .. .   | 0.00                               | 0.02                         |
| Non-paralytic .. .. .   | 0.00                               | 0.01                         |
| Food Poisoning .. .. .  | 0.00                               | 0.20                         |
| Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .                                     | 0.00                               | 17.73                        |
|   | <i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</i> |                              |
| <b>DEATHS :</b>   |                                    |                              |
| All causes under 1 year of age (16) ..                        | 37.47                              | 25.5                         |
| Enteritis and Diarrhoea (1) under 2<br>years of age .. .. .   | 2.34                               | 0.8                          |



## TUBERCULOSIS

No person employed in the milk trade was found to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, nor was it found necessary compulsorily to remove to hospital any person suffering from tuberculosis.

For the prevention of this disease, the following precautions should be noted :—

Proper food (see remarks in Appendix A), in addition, early diagnosis (X-ray, etc.), proper treatment, thorough disinfection of homes when cases go to a hospital separate rooms and utensils, frequent visits by Health Visitors, and as required by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors. All new cases are specially investigated by me and reported to me as Divisional Medical Officer of Health (as required to H.M. Inspector of Factories). Close liaison is kept with the Chest Physician. Follow-up of contacts and the patients by the Health Visitor is carried out very thoroughly and action is taken as required by myself and the Chest Physician (Divisional Health). B.C.G. vaccination is required for certain contacts, etc.

*In my opinion, all milk, especially for children, should be properly heat-treated (e.g., pasteurised or sterilised), failing this, heat-treated in the home. Designated areas should be declared at an early date.*

A reduction in cases of non-pulmonary (e.g., glands and joints) tuberculosis has occurred in both my Urban and Rural Districts since proper heat-treatment has become more available.

*With proper veterinary control of cattle, proper housing conditions and food for the people; these will help to stamp out this terrible disease. Proper heat-treatment of milk not only kills tubercle bacillus, but other germs causing disease.*

A thorough disinfection (steam, etc.) of the house, clothing, etc., with a thorough “spring clean” of the house when a case is admitted to a sanatorium or hospital, is essential. Isolation of contacts (especially children) is most essential, and every endeavour is made to do this. B.C.G. injections are given by the Chest Physician in suitable cases. Chalets and extra beds and bedding are supplied as and when required.

Medical Officers-in-charge of Industrial Hygiene, etc., Factory Inspectors, form a valuable liaison in preventing and ascertaining the cause of tuberculosis (e.g., dust, working conditions, disinfections, cleanliness, etc.). The Public Health Act, 1936 Section 287, proves useful to the Medical Officer of Health (and sanitary inspectors) allowing power of entry to any premises for the general purpose of the Act, in conjunction with those concerned.



# TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1954

| AGE PERIODS<br>Years | NEW CASES   |    |                 |    | DEATHS      |    |                 |    |
|----------------------|-------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|
|                      | Respiratory |    | Non-Respiratory |    | Respiratory |    | Non-Respiratory |    |
|                      | M.          | F. | M.              | F. | M.          | F. | M.              | F. |
| 0- .. ..             | -           | -  | -               | -  | -           | -  | -               | -  |
| 1- .. ..             | -           | -  | -               | -  | -           | -  | -               | -  |
| 2- .. ..             | -           | -  | -               | -  | -           | -  | -               | -  |
| 5- .. ..             | -           | -  | -               | -  | -           | -  | -               | -  |
| 10- .. ..            | -           | -  | -               | -  | -           | -  | -               | -  |
| 15- .. ..            | -           | 1  | -               | -  | -           | -  | -               | -  |
| 20- .. ..            | -           | -  | -               | -  | -           | -  | -               | -  |
| 25- .. ..            | -           | -  | -               | -  | -           | -  | -               | -  |
| 35- .. ..            | 1           | -  | -               | -  | 1           | -  | -               | -  |
| 45- .. ..            | -           | -  | -               | -  | 1           | -  | -               | -  |
| 55- .. ..            | 1           | -  | -               | -  | -           | -  | -               | -  |
| 65- .. ..            | 2           | -  | -               | -  | -           | -  | -               | -  |
| 75 and upwards       | -           | -  | -               | -  | 1           | -  | -               | -  |
| TOTALS               | 4           | 1  | -               | -  | 3           | -  | -               | -  |

*Ten Years' Table of Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis*

*(a) Pulmonary Tuberculosis*

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Cases Notified</i> |               |              | <i>Deaths</i> |               |              |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
|             | <i>Male</i>           | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Male</i>   | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| 1945        | 7                     | 10            | 17           | 4             | 5             | 9            |
| 1946        | 6                     | 5             | 11           | 6             | 5             | 11           |
| 1947        | 12                    | 9             | 21           | 7             | 0             | 7            |
| 1948        | 12                    | 4             | 16           | 4             | 2             | 6            |
| 1949        | 6                     | 2             | 8            | 4             | 5             | 9            |
| 1950        | 7                     | 9             | 16           | 8             | 0             | 8            |
| 1951        | 15                    | 8             | 23           | 3             | 1             | 4            |
| 1952        | 6                     | 2             | 8            | 5             | 0             | 5            |
| 1953        | 10                    | 8             | 18           | 6             | 1             | 7            |
| 1954        | 4                     | 1             | 5            | 3             | 0             | 3            |
| Totals      | 85                    | 58            | 143          | 50            | 19            | 69           |

*Ten Years' Table of Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis*

*(b) Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis*

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Cases Notified</i> |               |              | <i>Deaths</i> |               |              |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
|             | <i>Male</i>           | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Male</i>   | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| 1945        | 2                     | 1             | 3            | 0             | 0             | 0            |
| 1946        | 0                     | 2             | 2            | 0             | 0             | 0            |
| 1947        | 5                     | 1             | 6            | 2             | 1             | 3            |
| 1948        | 1                     | 2             | 3            | 1             | 0             | 1            |
| 1949        | 8                     | 4             | 12           | 0             | 2             | 2            |
| 1950        | 1                     | 0             | 1            | 1             | 0             | 1            |
| 1951        | 0                     | 0             | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0            |
| 1952        | 1                     | 0             | 1            | 2             | 0             | 2            |
| 1953        | 1                     | 0             | 1            | 0             | 0             | 0            |
| 1954        | 0                     | 0             | 0            | 0             | 0             | 0            |
| Totals      | 19                    | 10            | 29           | 6             | 3             | 9            |

## IMPORTANT

### THE COMMON SENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE

- (1) CLEANLINESS. (a) This *must* be thorough in or around the house, kitchen, shop, larder, etc. (This also applies to feeding bottles and teats.) WHY? Where these are *absolutely* clean there are few, if any, disease germs. Feeding bottles and teats *must* be thoroughly washed and boiled prior to use. If in doubt ask your Public Health Department, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

(b) This also applies to those who handle and cook food, especially the hands and nails.

WHY? Dirt (with disease germs) may be on the hands or *under the nails* and so spread disease germs to food; *always* thoroughly wash the hands and *clean under the nails* after using the lavatory.

- (2) DESTRUCTION OF FLIES, RATS AND MICE.

(a) FLIES : Any dirt, faeces, manure, etc., in which flies breed must be disposed of quickly and thoroughly (burying and *well covering* these with earth is one of the best ways). Flies should be destroyed by, e.g., fly sprays, fly swats, fly papers, etc., and food larders, pail closets, and bins *must* be fly proof. Food *must* be protected from dust, dirt, flies, rats and mice, and kept in a cool well ventilated place. Disinfectant solution *must* be used to cover contents in pail closets.

WHY? Flies carry disease germs (in and on their bodies) from all kinds of dirt to food, and so spread diseases.

(b) RATS AND MICE : For the destruction of these ask your chemist; failing this your Sanitary Inspector (who is also the Rodent Officer).

WHY? Rats and mice breed in all kinds of dirt, and like flies carry disease germs to food (and water).

- (3) FOOD : should be *properly* heat treated, this applies especially to the manufacture of ice cream, the cooking of shell-fish, and the pasteurisation and sterilization of milk. Where milk is not pasteurised or sterilized I recommend that this is boiled at home.

WHY? By proper heat treatment, any disease germs present are destroyed. This applies to all kinds of food, including ice cream, shell-fish and milk.

- (4) WATERCRESS must be obtained from properly controlled beds, that is, where pure water is supplied; *this with lettuce and fruits* without a fairly thick outside coat, should be thoroughly washed in a weak Condy's solution and then rinsed with pure water before being eaten.

WHY? Watercress can carry disease germs on it; this also applies to lettuce and fruit.



- (5) DRIED EGGS AND DRIED MILK must be kept in a cool place, and when the package is opened it should be used up quickly.  
WHY? These are good foods, but if the containers are left open to the air too long (e.g. over two days) germs can grow in them and so spread disease.

- (6) ALL WATER FOR DRINKING, DIETIC OR DAIRY PURPOSES should be from a pure supply; if in doubt as to its purity, boil it well for small quantities, or chlorinate it for large quantities, see instructions on bottles obtainable from most Chemists. Do NOT BATHE IN RIVERS, etc., which may be sewage polluted.  
WHY? Water, if impure, can have disease germs in it; boiling or chlorination kills disease germs. If you bathe in rivers, canals, etc., which may be sewage polluted, you may swallow disease germs.

- (7) CONSTIPATION. This must be avoided, for example, by eating sufficient roughage food, e.g., whole-meal bread and vegetables also by keeping the stomach muscles strong and healthy by games and P.T. exercises. If in doubt see your own Doctor. Many diseases might be traced to chronic constipation.  
WHY? If constipated foul matter remains too long in the lower bowel so poisoning the blood and also holding disease germs in the bowel which may infect the body.

- (8) OBESITY—(Over-weight). How can this be the cause of many serious diseases and can shorten life..

WHY? By "clogging up" of the blood vessels, the various organs of the body, disease can commence.

By eating *less* at *each* meal, with *more variety* and taking, for example, milk or a few sweets *between* meals, less fat, etc., will enter the body. *Moderate, regular* daily exercise, for example, a walk, will help to "Burn up" fat.

Guard against constipation. If in doubt see your own Doctor.

- (9) TO AVOID SPREADING "COLDS IN THE HEAD", INFLUENZA, etc., Use a handkerchief when you cough or sneeze.

WHY? A handkerchief acts as a screen and so catches disease germs from the nose and throat, disinfect and boil handkerchiefs well prior to washing. Wet feet, wet clothes, and draughts cause chilling of the body and so render it more liable to disease.

- (10) COVERING UP THE MOUTH WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING. Coughing or sneezing on *food*, for example, after Influenza, etc., may cause a serious attack of e.g., enteritis, diarrhoea, etc., especially in babies and young children.

WHY? Because germs causing *serious* disease enter on or into food . . . DO NOT COUGH OR SNEEZE onto food; cover the mouth and nose with a handkerchief or etc., See your own Doctor as required for treatment.

- (11) ALLERGIC DISEASES. The diseases for example, Migraine, Hay-Fever, Asthma, some types of Eczema (especially in children) due to allergy, cause much *unnecessary* suffering; by seeing a Doctor, (tests, etc.,) many of these can be cured or relieved; this also applies to contact "Dermatitis".



- (12) PROTECTIVE INJECTIONS AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, SMALLPOX, etc., See that all (especially young children) have these as required.

WHY? By these injections the body is more fully protected against dangerous diseases. If in doubt ask your own Doctor, Medical Officer of Health, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

- (13) PROPER DISINFECTION OF HOUSES, etc., After any serious disease in a house etc., see that this is carried out (ask your Public Health Department, Sanitary Inspector). ALSO A THOROUGH "Spring Cleaning" the latter would be sufficient in less serious diseases such as Influenza, Measles and Whooping Cough.

WHY? By this, disease germs are destroyed or washed away and so cannot infect others.

- (14) ISOLATION OF CONTACTS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE. Carry out thoroughly what is recommended on the special pamphlet issued by the Medical Officer of Health when patients are sent to Hospital or Nursed at Home.

WHY? By so doing disease germs are less likely to spread. If in doubt ask your own Doctor or Public Health Department (e.g. your Sanitary Inspector). *This also applies to any sick animals* (indoors or outdoors); if in doubt call in a Veterinary Officer.

- (15) DEFECTIVE TEETH. See your Dentist if your teeth are bad or septic; better still see him as a routine every 6 months.

WHY? If your teeth are bad or septic the chewing powers are not good and so all kinds of indigestion may arise. Septic teeth (and gums) lead to poisoning of the blood and so to various diseases.

- (16) THE PREVENTIVE FOODS. Eat some of these daily in your daily diet, which MUST be properly cooked, varied AND flavoured.

WHY? The preventive foods (i.e., those which help the body to prevent disease) are :—

Milk and eggs (dried or ordinary);

Cheese;

Fresh vegetables and fruit (cooked or in salads);

Animal fats e.g. fish (especially herrings) and butter;

Margarine (vitamised).

These all contain valuable substances called VITAMINS which are ESSENTIAL to good health. If in doubt ask, e.g. your Health Visitor or School Teacher, failing this your Doctor.

*When the above cannot be obtained*, various additional vitamins, e.g. Rose Hip Juice (vitamin C), vitamin C tablets, Wheatgerm (vitamin B), Cod and Halibut Liver Oil (vitamins A and D) and other vitamins can be obtained from your own Doctor if he agrees these are required. They can also be bought at the various Chemists and Shops. Without the proper amount of vitamins taken daily, the body is more open to attack by disease germs.

## GENERAL

- (1) Anyone feeling ill should see their own doctor (better still, as a routine, see him once a year)—though with the above common-sense precautions there should be little danger of contacting or spreading disease.

- (2) ASK FOR MORE OF THESE PAMPHLETS AS REQUIRED FROM YOUR MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Have discussion groups, lectures and films on health education. Attend the official classes on personal hygiene given by e.g., the Red Cross Society, St. John Association, Scouts and Girl Guides—these organisations have excellent little books on the subject. Always carry out these common-sense preventive measures and *tell others about them*.
- (3) Good health mostly depends on YOU—your co-operation is essential.

“WHERE THERE IS DIRT THERE IS DISEASE”

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P.&S., L.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban & Rural Districts.

Divisional Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS :

1. *Town Hall, Runcorn.*
2. *Castle Park, Frodsham.*

N.B PLEASE KEEP THIS PAMPHLET FOR EASY REFERENCE

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*Appendix "B"*

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR  
1954

By the

DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Presented to the  
Runcorn Divisional Health Committee  
15th March, 1955

MEMBERS OF THE  
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

---

*Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR W. S. HUXTABLE

*Deputy Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR W. H. STUBBS

*Representatives of Local Health Authority :*

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| County Alderman G. ASTBURY,    | Chairman, County Health Committee.      |
| County Councillor A. WHITLEY,  | Vice-Chairman, County Health Committee. |
| Alderman W. GITTINS,           | County Councillor R. E. PAYTON,         |
| Alderman W. A. GIBSON,         | County Councillor Miss M. J. PREECE.    |
| County Councillor A. E. MOORS, |   |

*Runcorn Rural District Council Representatives :*

|                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Councillor D. L. DAVIES | Councillor J. W. KIRKHAM |
| „ Mrs. T. A. GLOVER     | „ T. L. LOOKER           |
| „ Mrs. A. HALL          | „ Mrs. E. STANSFIELD     |
| „ J. HUNT               | „ G. S. WALLWORTH        |
| „ H. JACKSON            |                          |

*Runcorn Urban District Council Representatives :*

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Councillor G. GOODIER | Councillor T. B. SHALLCROSS |
| „ C. J. HELSBY        | „ H. A. THOMAS              |
| „ S. HOLT             | „ A. WOOD                   |
| „ T. H. LEATHER       |                             |

*Co-opted Members*

Dr. C. E. W. BOWER, Local Medical Committee for the County Palatine of Chester.  
Dr. E. WARDLE, National Health Service, Local Dental Committee.  
Mrs. W. HILL, Cheshire County Nursing Association.  
Mrs. C. EVANS  
Mrs. E. A. ROYLE  
Mr. J. D. WHITLEY

*Officers :*

*Clerk to the Committee :* Mr. T. J. LEWIS  
*Divisional Medical Officer :* E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.



CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1954

INTRODUCTION

TO : THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this my Annual Report dealing with those portions of the Sections of Part 111 of the National Health Act, 1946, for which this Committee is responsible.

As in previous years the report is sub-divided into the various sections of the Act and gives details of the work carried out during the year.

The Welfare Centres in the Division have been well attended and at the Day Nursery there has been an increase of 3 in the average daily attendance, as compared with the previous year.

On the 28th June 1954 the work of distributing Welfare Foods to the priority classes was transferred from the Ministry of Food to the Local Health Authority, and this Committee became responsible for making arrangements for the distribution throughout the Division. As far as possible the centres previously **manned** by the Ministry of Food were taken over, and every effort was made to give to the public a service as efficient as had been provided by the Ministry of Food. Despite the short time available, with the aid of the voluntary and paid staff, a smooth change-over was effected. Requests were received from the public for distribution points in Weston and Weston Point, and these were arranged at the Post Offices.

The Committee on their annual inspection of County owned and rented property in the Division, considered all matters requiring attention.

Since the formation of the Divisional Health Committee, every effort has been made to form a permanent Ambulance Service for

the Division. To enable this to be done it was necessary to obtain a suitable building to house the vehicles and staff, and early in the year the County Council purchased the Manse Garage, 36 Halton Road, Runcorn, for an Ambulance Station. It was intended to carry out the necessary repairs and adaptations to the building before operating the permanent ambulance service from the premises, but certain difficulties necessitated the Committee taking over the operation of the ambulances at very short notice. Although many difficulties arose due to the sudden change over, with the co-operation of all concerned, these were surmounted and an efficient service maintained. With the supply of two clinic ambulances to the Depot, the bulk of the sitting case work was taken over from the contractors. Another such vehicle would add to efficiency and economy. This has been recommended to the Cheshire County Council, but they have given instructions that no such vehicle will be supplied, and all necessary work should be given to contractors.

Every effort has been made during the year to give publicity to the need for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough.

The scheme of B.C.G. Vaccination was extended during the year to cover school leavers throughout the County, and I give details in the report of the schools visited and the number of B.C.G. Vaccinations given.

The demand on the domestic help service increased during the year on account of the number of aged persons requiring the services of a domestic help whose need for help continues indefinitely. Although the number of cases supplied with help was one less than in 1953, the hours worked by helps increased on account of the number of protracted cases on the register. In view of the demand on the Hospital Authorities for admission of chronic sick patients to hospital, this service is most valuable in helping to look after the old people in their homes for as long as is possible.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Divisional Health Committee for their support and help to me on all occasions.

The co-operation and assistance of the County Medical Officer and his staff, the Clerk to the Divisional Health Committee, and also the staff in my Divisional Health Office, has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties.

I beg to remain,

Town Hall, RUNCORN. Your obedient Servant,

March, 1955.

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY.

## SECTION 22

### CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

There are seven Welfare Centres in the Division, three of which are held in County owned premises (Runcorn, Frodsham and Stockton Heath) and four of which are held in premises rented by the County Council for the actual sessions (Antrobus, Grappenhall, Helsby and Kingsley).

The Infant Welfare Centres are as follows :

ANTROBUS—Parish Hall—First and third Wednesdays of each month at 2.0 p.m.

FRODSHAM—Welfare Centre, Chapel-on-the-Rock—Alternate Tuesdays at 2.0 p.m.

GRAPPENHALL—Methodist Sunday School—Tuesdays at 2.0 p.m.

HELSEBY—British Insulated Callenders' Cable Works Recreation Room—Alternate Tuesdays at 2.0 p.m.

KINGSLEY—Hurst Chapel—Second and fourth Wednesdays at 2.0 p.m.

RUNCORN—Welfare Centre, Halton Road—Wednesdays 10 a.m. and 2.0 p.m.

STOCKTON HEATH—Welfare Centre, 65, Whitefield Road—Mondays 2.0 p.m.

In addition to Infant Welfare Clinics, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Dental and Minor Ailments Clinics are held at the Frodsham, Runcorn and Stockton Heath Centres during the month, and at Runcorn, Ante- and Post-Natal Clinics are also held each Thursday at 10.0 a.m., a Toddlers Clinic on the second Monday of the month, and Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy Clinics are held during the month.

During the year, consideration was given to the opening of a Welfare Centre for the Weston and Weston Point areas, and it was agreed to hold a Child Welfare Clinic in the Conservative Hall, Weston Point, early in the New Year.

The Committee inspected the Welfare Centres at Frodsham, Runcorn and Stockton Heath, and the Day Nursery, Runcorn, on the annual inspection of County owned and rented properties, and attention was given to alterations, repairs and replacements required. The Committee recommended that the gardens to the new Welfare Centre at Runcorn should be properly laid out and maintained.



## Day Nursery.

There is one Day Nursery in the Division, situated in Okell Street, Runcorn.

During the year the average daily attendance of the Nursery increased by 3.

Attendances at the various clinics held at the Welfare Centres, and for the Day Nursery, are given in the following tables :—

### A. MOTHERS' CLINICS :

|                          | <i>New Cases</i> | <i>Total Attendances</i> |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Ante-Natal ... ..        | 185              | 725                      |
| Post-Natal ... ..        | 3                | 3                        |
| Dental :                 |                  |                          |
| Pre-Natal ... ..         | 13               | 30                       |
| Nursing Mothers ... ..   | 9                | 25                       |
| Dentures supplied ... .. |                  | 9                        |

### B. YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS :

| (i) <i>Infant Welfare</i>   | <i>New Cases</i> | <i>Total Att</i> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| To 1 year ... ..            | 572              | 5709             |
| 1 to 2 years ... ..         | —                | 1074             |
| 2 to 5 years ... ..         | —                | 725              |
| (ii) <i>Specialist</i>      |                  |                  |
| Ophthalmic (under 5) ...    | 22               | 52               |
| Dental treatment (under 5 ) | 35               | 41               |

### B. (i) WELFARE CENTRES :

|                      | <i>New Cases</i> | <i>Total Attendances</i> |       |     |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------|-----|
|                      | 0-1              | 0-1                      | 1-2   | 2-5 |
| Antrobus .. ..       | 10               | 124                      | 87    | 91  |
| Frodsham .. ..       | 40               | 433                      | 128   | 84  |
| Grappenhall .. ..    | 100              | 1,187                    | 147   | 64  |
| Helsby .. ..         | 35               | 445                      | 107   | 136 |
| Kingsley .. ..       | 19               | 175                      | 30    | 86  |
| Runcorn .. ..        | 242              | 2,242                    | 455   | 240 |
| Stockton Heath .. .. | 126              | 1,103                    | 120   | 24  |
| TOTALS .. ..         | 572              | 5,709                    | 1,074 | 725 |



B. (ii) OPHTHALMIC CLINICS :

|                |     |     |            | <i>New Cases</i> | <i>Total Att.</i> |
|----------------|-----|-----|------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Frodsham       | ... | ... | ...        | 3                | 6                 |
| Runcorn        | ... | ... | ...        | 9                | 25                |
| Stockton Heath | ... | ... | ...        | 10               | 21                |
|                |     |     |            | —                | —                 |
|                |     |     | Totals ... | 22               | 52                |
|                |     |     |            | —                | —                 |

(iii) DAY NURSERY, RUNCORN

|                  |     |     |     | <i>Average No.<br/>Attending</i> | <i>Total<br/>Attendances</i> |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Aged 0 — 2 years | ... | ... | ... | 7                                | 1743                         |
| 2 — 5 years      | ... | ... | ... | 16                               | 3818                         |

SALE OF WELFARE FOODS

The sale of proprietary brands of Welfare Foods at the Antrobus, Kingsley and Runcorn Clinics is carried out through my office. During the year the total sales amounted to £664 16s. 2d. The foods are sold to mothers using the clinics at cost price plus 10%.

At the Frodsham, Helsby, Grappenhall and Stockton Heath Clinics, the sale of Welfare Foods is carried out by Voluntary Societies.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

On the 28th June, 1954, the distribution scheme for Welfare Foods was transferred from the Ministry of Labour and National Service to the Divisional Health Committee. Arrangements were made for accommodation to be made available at 36 Halton Road, Runcorn, for the distribution of these foods and the selling points in the Division were also taken over. Two clerks were appointed to the Divisional Health Staff to assist in this work.

The following are details of the distribution points and commodities sold during the period 28th June, 1954 to 31st December, 1954 :

| Centre   | Commodities |            |               |                  |              |
|--|-------------|------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
|  | N.D. Milk   | Half Cream | Cod Liver Oil | A. & D. Capsules | Orange Juice |
| Runcorn ..                                       | 7,228       | 276        | 1,638         | 440              | 5,823        |
| Antrobus ..                                      | 113         | —          | 70            | 9                | 196          |
| Frodsham ..                                      | 1,424       | 72         | 366           | 102              | 1,654        |
| Grappenhall ..                                   | 489         | —          | 231           | 58               | 1,062        |
| Halton ..  | 206         | —          | 104           | 5                | 350          |
| Helsby ..  | 580         | 46         | 182           | 37               | 770          |
| Kingsley ..                                      | 103         | —          | 44            | 14               | 203          |
| Norley ..  | 135         | —          | 56            | 2                | 244          |
| Preston Brook ..                                 | 95          | —          | 45            | 3                | 181          |
| Stockton Heath                                   | 684         | 11         | 230           | 58               | 812          |
| Sutton Weaver ..                                 | 35          | —          | 18            | 4                | 86           |
| Thelwall ..                                      | 76          | —          | 18            | 2                | 67           |
| *Weston ..                                       | 297         | —          | 43            | 7                | 234          |
| *Weston Point ..                                 | 716         | —          | 97            | 17               | 404          |
| Whitley ..                                       | 227         | 4          | 35            | 13               | 197          |
| TOTAL ISSUES ..                                  | 12,408      | 409        | 3,177         | 771              | 12,283       |
| * These Centres were opened on 1st August, 1954. |             |            |               |                  |              |
| Issues to Institutions ..                        | 112         | —          | 144           | —                | 312          |
| TOTALS FOR DIVISION ..                           | 12,520      | 409        | 3,321         | 771              | 12,595       |

### SECTION 23—MIDWIFERY

Under this section the Committee are responsible for : :—

- (i) Provision, where necessary, of accommodation for midwives and the maintenance, repair and alterations required for such premises.
- (ii) Provision of transport for midwives where necessary in cases of emergency.

Apart from the Midwives residing in No. 10 Stanley Villas, and No. 30 Heath Road Crescent, Runcorn, all other County Midwives in the Divisions reside in property under arrangements made by themselves, and for which this Committee have no responsibility with regard to repairs, etc.

During the year the Committee inspected No. 10 Stanley Villas and No. 30 Heath Road Crescent, Runcorn, and repairs requiring attention were dealt with.

Transport and medical requisites were provided as and when required.

Midwives do excellent work as required in the homes of the people.

## SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

The Committee are also responsible for housing accommodation for Health Visitors, but during the year all Health Visitors in the Division resided in property under arrangements made by themselves and for which this Committee have no responsibility with regard to repairs, etc.

I must congratulate all the Health Visitors in the Division for their excellent work in the various clinics but especially in the homes of the people, dealing with the problems of young, old, etc. They have many important duties to carry out.

## SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

With the exception of the two District Nurses in Runcorn and one District Nurse/Midwife at Budworth who reside in properties under arrangements made by themselves and for which this Committee have no responsibility, the remainder now reside in County Owned or rented property.

The Committee inspected all County owned or rented property in the Division, and action was taken regarding any alterations, repairs or renewals requiring attention. During the year garages were erected at the Nurses Homes at 68 Mill Lane, Stockton Heath and No. 3 Beverley Avenue, Appleton.

The District Nurses carry out very good work in the homes of the people.

## SECTION 26—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Every effort has again been made during the year to bring to the notice of parents and guardians the necessity of having their children vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough.

A register is maintained of all births in the Division and if a record is not received that a child has been vaccinated at the age of 6 months, a letter is sent to the parents strongly advising them to have their child vaccinated. A similar course is also taken regarding immunisation when a child is one year of age, in the case of those in whom immunity has not been carried out at 6-9 months.

In addition, publicity has been given to this subject by posters, periodic advertisements in the local press, and the health visitors have discussed the question with mothers when making their home visits.

Special immunisation sessions were held by me at schools in the Division, 137 children being given primary injections, and 467 reinforcing injections.

The figures set out in the following tables, compiled from record cards received from medical practitioners show the number of



vaccinations and immunisations carried out during the year. For comparison purposes the figures for the previous year are also given from which it will be noted that more children were immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough during the year.

#### VACCINATION—

|                |      | <i>Welfare<br/>Centres</i> | <i>Doctor's<br/>Surgery</i> | <i>Patient's<br/>Homes</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|----------------|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Primary        | 1954 | 93                         | 321                         | 84                         | 498          |
|                | 1953 | 92                         | 304                         | 90                         | 486          |
| Re-vaccination | 1954 | 1                          | 61                          | 5                          | 67           |
|                | 1953 | —                          | 108                         | 18                         | 126          |

#### IMMUNISATION—PRIMARY.

|  |      | <i>Welfare<br/>Centres</i> | <i>Doctor's<br/>Surgery</i> | <i>Patient's<br/>Home</i> | <i>School<br/>Clinics</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Diphtheria                                   | 1954 | 15                         | 114                         | 28                        | 137                       | 294          |
|  | 1953 | 58                         | 138                         | 31                        | 152                       | 379          |
| Whooping<br>Cough                            | 1954 | 15                         | 6                           | 4                         | —                         | 25           |
|  | 1953 | 7                          | 29                          | 7                         | —                         | 43           |
| Combined<br>Whooping<br>Cough/<br>Diphtheria | 1954 | 161                        | 399                         | 39                        | —                         | 599          |
|  | 1953 | 93                         | 300                         | 24                        | —                         | 417          |

#### IMMUNISATION—REINFORCING INJECTIONS.

|  |      |    |     |    |     |     |
|--|------|----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| Diphtheria                                   | 1954 | 32 | 140 | 36 | 467 | 675 |
|  | 1953 | 20 | 77  | 13 | 630 | 740 |
| Whooping<br>Cough                            | 1954 | —  | 2   | —  | —   | 2   |
|  | 1953 | —  | 2   | 1  | —   | 3   |
| Combined<br>Whooping<br>Cough/<br>Diphtheria | 1954 | 4  | 40  | 1  | —   | 45  |
|  | 1953 | —  | 32  | 6  | —   | 38  |

#### SECTION 27—AMBULANCE AND TRANSPORT SERVICE

Since the formation of the Divisional Health Scheme in 1948, every effort has been made by the Committee to obtain suit-



able premises for the formation of a permanent ambulance service for the Division.

Early in the year under review the County Council purchased the premises known as the Manse Garage, 36 Halton Road, Runcorn for the purposes of an Ambulance Station.

It was intended to complete the necessary alterations and adaptations to the buildings before occupying the premises, but in view of staffing difficulties which arose with the Ambulance Contractor carrying out the work in the Division, it was necessary for the Committee to take over all the ambulance journeys at very short notice, and on the 26th April, 1954, the ambulance service for stretcher cases only was operated from the new premises. Three ambulances were provided and six Driver/Attendants were appointed to man the vehicles. Despite the difficulties encountered in this sudden change over, the new service ran extremely well.

In August the County Council supplied to the Division two clinic ambulances for the conveyance of sitting cases to Hospitals. The necessary ambulance personnel were appointed to complete the establishment for our permanent service, and all ambulance work was transferred from contractors to our own Depot. (See my remarks in my introduction).

Details of journeys made during the year as compared with the previous twelve months are as follows :—

|                              | <i>Journeys</i> | <i>Patients</i> | <i>Emergencies</i> | <i>Mileage</i> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <i>Ambulance Journeys</i>    |                 |                 |                    |                |
| 1954                         | 1,560           | 2,885           | 801                | 43,316         |
| 1953                         | 949             | 1,122           | 761                | 26,691         |
| <i>Sitting Case Journeys</i> |                 |                 |                    |                |
| 1954                         | 5,141           | 8,060           | 963                | 128,229        |
| 1953                         | 6,731           | 8,678           | 1,547              | 152,453        |
| <i>Total all Journeys</i>    |                 |                 |                    |                |
| 1954                         | 6,701           | 10,945          | 1,764              | 171,545        |
| 1953                         | 7,680           | 9,800           | 2,308              | 179,144        |
| Increase                     | —               | 1,145           | —                  | —              |
| Decrease                     | 979             | —               | 544                | 7,599          |

It is interesting to note that although there was an increase of 1,145 patients conveyed to hospital during the year, there was a decrease of 979 journeys and 7,599 miles in the mileage for the year. This was due to the co-ordination of journeys and the use of the

clinic ambulances in which it is possible to carry up to six sitting cases, or one stretcher case and three sitting cases. As these vehicles only came into operation in August, a greater saving in the number of journey and milage should be shown in the figures for the following year.

The majority of patients in the Division requiring transport attend hospitals in Chester, Liverpool and Warrington, and the average mileage per journey for the year was 25.6 compared with 23.33 for the previous year.

The arrangements between the County Council and the Warrington Corporation, whereby the latter supplied ambulances for the conveyance of non-infectious cases from Stockton Heath and the surrounding districts and infectious disease cases throughout the area of the Division being admitted to the Warrington Isolation Hospital, were continued during the year.

For patients travelling a considerable distance, where practicable arrangements were made for them to travel by rail, an ambulance being supplied for the conveyance of the patient from his/her home to the nearest railway station, and arrangements made with the distant authority for an ambulance to meet the train on arrival to convey the patient to his/her destination.

During the year three such journeys were arranged, two to the London area and one to the Birmingham area.

## SECTION 28

### PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

#### *Tuberculosis*

The Health Visitors were informed of all new cases and asked to visit and complete the environmental report sheet, and where the contacts of the patients had not attended the Chest Clinic for examination, they were advised to do so.

On receipt of the completed report sheets, these were carefully investigated by me, and where the housing conditions of the patients were such that it was advisable that they should be re-housed, the question was taken up with the Housing Department of the Urban and Rural District Councils, and I am pleased to be able to report that both Councils gave their sympathetic consideration to the re-housing of these cases, and in a large number of cases they were able to re-house the families. Where the housing accommodation

was adequate, the patients were strongly advised to occupy separate bedrooms, and in all cases advice was given on the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection. Advice was also given to patients on how to obtain extra nourishment and assistance.

In all cases, enquiries were made to see whether it was possible to find the cause of infection.

The Chest Physicians at the Runcorn and Warrington Chest Clinics tested the child contacts of cases, and during the year 31 B.C.G. Vaccinations were given in this connection.

When patients were admitted to Hospital, arrangements were made for a full disinfection of the premises to be carried out.

During the year a careful check was made with the Chest Physicians of all patients whose names appear on my Tuberculosis Register and after examination, it was possible to remove a number of patient's names from such register.

Details of cases during the period 1st January to 31st December 1954 are as follows :—

|  | <i>Pulmonary</i> |           | <i>Non-Pulmonary</i> |           | <i>Total</i> |
|--|------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|--------------|
|  | <i>M.</i>        | <i>F.</i> | <i>M.</i>            | <i>F.</i> |              |
| (a) Total number of cases on register—                                       |                  |           |                      |           |              |
| 1st January, 1954 ..   | 165              | 130       | 45                   | 45        | 383          |
| 31st December, 1954 ..   | 153              | 121       | 26                   | 29        | 329          |
| (b) Removals from register, 1st January to 31st December, 1954—              |                  |           |                      |           |              |
| Died .. .. .   | 9                | 1         | —                    | —         | 10           |
| Left district .. ..  | 7                | 7         | 1                    | 1         | 16           |
| Recovered .. .. .  | 8                | 12        | 19                   | 13        | 52           |
| Lost sight of .. ..  | 1                | —         | —                    | 2         | 3            |
|  | 25               | 20        | 20                   | 16        | 81           |
| (c) Number of notifications received, 1st January to 31st December, 1954— .. |                  |           |                      |           |              |
| New cases .. .. .  | 9                | 6         | 1                    | 1         | 17           |
| Transfers .. .. .  | 3                | 5         | —                    | 1         | 9            |
| Restored to register ..  | 1                | —         | —                    | —         | 1            |
|  | 13               | 11        | 1                    | 2         | 27           |



### *B.C.G. Vaccination*

During the year the Local Health Authority made arrangements to offer B.C.G. Vaccination, subject to the necessary preliminary tests and to obtaining parental consent, to school children between their thirteenth and fourteenth birthdays.

A start was made in three Divisions in the County, in the first place to assess Medical Officers', Nurses' and Clerical time required, to find out the best means of arriving at a satisfactory routine procedure and to accumulate experience, this Division being one of those selected.

It was necessary to obtain extra clerical assistance for this work, and one part-time Clerk was appointed.

From the commencement of the scheme to 31st December 1954, the following schools were visited and a total of 305 pupils were given B.C.G. Vaccinations :—

Balfour Road Secondary Modern School, Runcorn.

Holy Trinity C. of E. School, Runcorn.

Parish C. of E. School, Runcorn.

St. Edwards R.C. School, Runcorn.

Helsby Grammar School.

Secondary Modern School, Helsby.

Secondary Modern School, Kingsley.

A good response was obtained from the parents of the pupils in the age group concerned, about 80% agreeing to their children being tested, and, if necessary, given B.C.G. Vaccination.

### *Care of the Aged.*

The care and after-care of old people living on their own has continued to be a most difficult problem, but in conjunction with General Practitioners and Health Visitors, assistance has been given to have cases admitted to a suitable hospital or home for the aged, and where this has not been possible, the provision of a domestic help and a visit by the District Nurse.

Whenever there are relations and friends, contact is made with them, if required, so that they can be reminded of their responsibility in the care of the old people and more help could and should be given by the relatives in many cases.

As previously mentioned, patients are encouraged to arrange for someone to live in whenever possible and practicable.



The "Over 60" Club in Runcorn, and the "Darby and Joan" Club in Frodsham do very good work in the care of old people, and their work could, with advantage, be copied elsewhere in the Division. In addition, Women's Institutes, Townswomen's Guilds and Church organisations take an interest in old people's Welfare, working in conjunction with ward and parish councils.

The Central Council of Social Service, Warrington, has arranged for their voluntary assistants to visit old people living on their own in the Runcorn and Stockton Heath districts. They visit the old people at regular intervals and take books, periodicals, etc., and assist them in any way possible.

Lists of old people in the Division have been requested from the appropriate Ministry, and when these are received, and kept up-to-date, this most important service can be extended. The volunteers visiting old people and/or disabled have carried out very good work with discretion.

Much valuable assistance has been given to the old people by these voluntary workers.

It is understood that higher authority are considering the nutritional need of old people, taking into consideration the cost of living etc.

#### *Loan of Nursing Equipment.*

Supplies of nursing equipment, apparatus, etc. are available for loan to patients from stocks supplied to district nurses in accordance with the scale agreed to by the Cheshire County Council and my Committee. A reserve stock is also kept at my Divisional Office.

A patient borrowing equipment under the above heading is required to pay a deposit, which is refunded when the article is returned in good condition.

There has been a steady demand for this equipment during the year, and this service is much appreciated by those concerned.

#### *Convalescent Home Treatment.*

The Committee has power to send persons in need of rest but not nursing care, to convalescent homes. During the year only one application was received and arrangements were made for the patient to be admitted to the Women's Convalescent Home, Llandudno, for a period of two weeks.

The patients are required to pay towards the cost of their stay in these homes, according to the scale laid down by the County Council. The full cost is usually beyond the means of most cases.

In view of the special circumstances of the above case, the Committee decided that no charge should be made on the patient.

### *Handicapped Persons.*

A Register of Handicapped Persons is kept in my office and the patients are visited by the health visitors to ascertain what assistance can be given to these persons, working in conjunction with the various voluntary societies, etc.

#### *Home Occupation.*

In a few cases, where patients are suffering from prolonged disability, resultant upon injury or sickness, arrangements have been made, in conjunction with the Chest Physicians and/or the patient's medical practitioner, and the British Red Cross Society, for the supply of materials and apparatus for home occupation.

The patients have found great interest in the work and a new pleasure in life.

Some health visitors have given the greatest assistance to me in this important matter.

It is hoped to increase this service during 1955 for cases requiring occupational therapy in the home, via health visitors, etc., especially for tuberculous cases.

### *Health Education.*

Copies of my pamphlet "Commonsense Preventive Measures Against Disease" have been widely distributed throughout the Division, and posters on health education matters have been forwarded to shops, etc., for display.

Pamphlets are also left at homes where there are cases of infectious disease, giving details of the precautions to be taken to avoid the spread of infection.

### *Cancer Research.*

The detailed enquiry into Cancer incidence and pathogenesis which is being conducted by Dr. Percy Stocks, on behalf of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, has continued during the year.

The Health Visitors are supplied with comprehensive enquiry forms for all deaths from cancer, of residents in the Division. In certain cases the Sanitary Inspectors are asked to take soil samples and complete report sheets on same.

During the year enquiries into 107 cases were made.

It is hoped, through these enquiries, to trace hitherto unsuspected sources of one of the greatest causes of death today.

The assistance of health visitors and Sanitary Inspectors has been greatly appreciated.



## SECTION 29 — DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The number of domestic helps employed at 31st December 1954 was 31.

Although the number of cases provided with domestic helps during the year was 145 as against 146 for the previous year, the demand on the service greatly increased on account of the large number of cases of aged persons requiring the services of a domestic help, an increase of 21 on the previous year.

Domestic Helps are provided for confinement cases and cases of other illness, for an average period of two weeks, whereas with the aged persons group, the need for the weekly supply of help continues for many months.

As the population of aged persons is increasing each year, the demand on this service will also increase.

So far, owing to economy, but especially the non-availability of these, the "Sitter-In" service (night) has not functioned. In some cases, relations or friends provide this service.

Most old people do not wish to enter Hospital or Homes for the Aged, but to remain in their own homes as long as possible, and every effort is made, with the aid of this service and additional help from the relatives and neighbours, visits by members of voluntary societies, and, when necessary, visits by the District Nurse, to make this possible. This action also helps to relieve the heavy demands on hospital authorities for this type of patient.

The following table shows the types of case supplied with help during 1953 and 1954 :

| Year : | Confinement<br>Cases | Tuberculosis<br>Cases | Aged<br>Persons | Cases of Other<br>Illness |
|--------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1954   | 19                   | 3                     | 89              | 34                        |
| 1953   | 33                   | 2                     | 68              | 43                        |

All applications for the service of domestic helps were carefully investigated. The health visitors visited all applicants to make full enquiries as to the need for help, and also to enquire whether it was possible for arrangements to be made for relatives to assist, or for someone to live in, in the case of old people living alone, and only where neither of these arrangements were possible, and it was in the interests of the health of the patients that help was provided, were the services of a domestic help supplied.

All protracted cases were re-visited at regular intervals to ascertain whether conditions were such that the services of a domestic help could be discontinued, or the number of hours per week the help was supplied reduced, but this was only possible in very few cases, and in certain cases it was necessary to increase

the number of hours per week help was supplied, due to the deterioration of the condition of the patient.

At 31st December 1954 there were 73 protracted cases remaining on the register, an increase of 24 on the previous year.

The service is not free to patients but subject to the County Council Scale of Assessment.

Where any hardship is claimed after the assessment, the case is referred to the Divisional Health Committee, for their decision in the matter. During the year three cases were submitted to the Committee for consideration, and reductions made in all three cases.









